



The Tool Kit

The Home Incarceration Program (HIP)

By Mavis McCowan, Program Administrator/HIP

The Home Incarceration Program (HIP) is a program that was designed to assist the Kentucky Department of Corrections with cost saving measures, while reintegrating offenders back into the community. The offender is required to wear an ankle device while being monitored by a local Probation and Parole officer. The cost savings for fiscal year 2011 were \$2,736,770.00.

HIP began in July, 2005 and was initially only available to offenders who had 60 days of their sentence to serve remaining. In July, 2006, the program expanded to include county jails along with institutions. In addition, the number of days that an offender could participate in HIP increased to 90 days.

Over the last few years, the program has continued to expand and presently an offender can be placed on HIP for up to 9 months.

During FY 2011, there were a total of 1,178 offenders that participated in HIP. Of those 1,178 offenders, 865 (73%) completed HIP successfully, 56 (5%) were sent back due to no violation of their own, 239 (20%) violated with the majority of those violations being drug and/or alcohol related. The additional 18 (2%) offenders continued on the program into FY 2012.

The Home Incarceration Program has proven to be a successful reentry method. It promotes family reunification, allows an offender to gain full time employment, participate in educational and self-help programs and reduces prison overcrowding. Since offenders are still classified as state incarcerated offenders, they continue to earn meritorious good time towards their sentences. Offenders on HIP are also able to apply for their SSI or disability, if eligible.

Qualifying Criteria for HIP

To be reviewed for HIP, an offender must meet the following statutory requirements:

- Must be serving on a Class C or D felony
- Must never have been convicted of a sex crime or violent offense according to the current DOC classification manual.

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“FROM THE INSIDE OUT”

By Rachel Goldstein

Art and self-expression have long been used as a medium to heal the human spirit. Parolees residing at Dismas Charities St. Ann’s Halfway House in Louisville, KY, exemplified the healing properties of art therapy at an exhibit called “From the Inside Out.” The December 2nd exhibit featured paintings and poetry created by DCI St. Ann’s parolees. The art represented the internal struggle that accompanies substance abuse addictions, and what comes from being incarcerated. The exhibit was held at Hotel Louisville, and about 100 people attended, including WDRB News Reporter Tamara Evans. The event was free and open to the public.

The Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force and Dismas Charities worked diligently together to make this exhibit a reality. Together, the two organizations created an art committee to put the event together, to identify parolees who would be interested in contributing, and to have the artwork completed and ready for viewing for the exhibit. “The parolees at St. Ann’s really responded well to the community’s feedback about this art project,” said Melissa McIntosh, the parole officer who is assigned to the Dismas Charities St. Ann’s Halfway House. “Many of the guys were surprised that their artwork was so attractive to those who came to the show, that people wanted to purchase some of the canvases. It did huge things for their self-esteem and to help them build even more momentum towards successfully paroling back to their home communities. Many of them have had very little ‘positive press’ in terms of media or community attention, and this art show was a great shot in the arm to boost them along in the program.”

Each of the canvas paintings showed a remarkable level of skill and ability. The paintings and poems exuded passion, pain, and strife. They all, however, painted hope. The art exhibit provided a way to express program residents’ feelings, and it gave them a chance to shade their stories for the world to see. Perhaps just as importantly, the exhibit gave the public a chance to see each parolee as someone not so different from themselves.



"Rob is a single dad who is breaking the intergenerational deadbeat dad cycle. This was Rob's goal and he has achieved it."

Prodigal Ministries was founded in 1994 by an ex-offender who served a sentence of eight years at the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, KY. He observed the high rate of return to prison. It was his dream to help ex-offenders establish themselves in society, resume his family responsibilities, and live a meaningful life. Prodigal Ministries became the outcome of his dream.

Prodigal Ministries, INC.

By Jennifer Partin, Program & Volunteer Director

PRODIGAL MINISTRIES, INC

P.O. Box 1484 Crestwood, KY 40014 - Phone: 502-749-9194

I love the feedback from our clients who have "never thought I would be doing that" stories. Derrick and Cathy never dreamed of having a passport much less going on an overseas mission trip. Brenda never thought she would have a job with medical and dental insurance as well as a retirement fund.

The most recent story is Rob's. He came to Prodigal one year ago. He worked hard in his recovery, living in community and most importantly renewing his relationship with his son. While incarcerated he entered a program teaching fathers to be real fathers. He continued in a follow-up program when he arrived at the Wright house. One year later he has a home for him and his son. He coached his son's Upward Basketball team this past season. Rob is a single dad who is breaking the intergenerational "deadbeat dad" cycle. This was Rob's goal and he has achieved it.

However, his "never thought I would be doing that" story happened during the famous Kentucky Derby weekend. He was asked to transport a group of "important people" who were in town for the Derby festivities. The van and appropriate clothes were provided by the country club. He paid for a haircut. Prior to the weekend he practiced driving the route from the club to Churchill Downs to the private residence. On the first day I received a text from him asking me to pray for the day to go well because he was very nervous. The next text came later in the weekend thanking me for the prayers. I'm sure the guests did not notice his nervousness. They probably saw a very confident, capable, handsome young man and were grateful for his expertise at negotiating the traffic and safely chauffeuring them around to all of the

festivities. When it was over, Rob had grown in confidence, trustworthiness and had one of the best "never thought I would be doing that" stories.

Prodigal Ministries
Locations:

- Buckner
- Louisville
- Crestwood

The National Reentry Resource Center

Mission

The mission of the National Reentry Resource Center is to advance the reentry field through knowledge transfer and dissemination and to promote evidence-based best practices.

Check the "Reentry Facts" at the The National Reentry Resource Center website listed below.

Objectives of the National Reentry Resource Center

- Provide a one-stop, interactive source of current, user-friendly reentry information.
- Identify, document, and promote evidence-based practices.
- Deliver individualized, targeted technical assistance to the Second Chance Act grantees.
- Advance the reentry field through training, distance learning, and knowledge development.

What is the Justice Reinvestment Project?



“Justice Reinvestment is a data driven strategy to increase public safety and reduce crime by engaging local agencies and neighborhood residents in facilitating the successful reintegration of individuals returning to their home communities following release from jail or prison .”

The Kentucky Department of Corrections has partnered with two communities in the Louisville-Metro area to pilot the justice reinvestment efforts. The first to open it's doors was the Newburg area project with Reverend Roosevelt Lightsey, Jr. as the project coordinator and community liaison. The second pilot is the “Shawnee Project” with Debora McGill serving as the project coordinator/ community liaison. Because this is a multi-pronged approach the JRI projects focus on meeting the individual needs of the returning offender along with addressing the needs identified by residents to promote the revitalization of these two communities.

Process Goals:

- Improve access to a network of support services (mental health, medical, substance abuse, employment and housing services) for individuals released from prison and jail.
- Enhance reentry planning services within the Jefferson County area are for inmates returning to local neighborhoods.
- Identify existing temporary and permanent housing opportunities for released prisoners.
- Reduce barriers to employment and housing for ex-felons.
- Engage community residents in identifying community service opportunities and to provide necessary support and supervision where necessary.

Impact Goals:

- Reduce parole and probation revocations that now result in a return to prison.
- Reduce the recidivism rate for persons returning to the Newburg and Shawnee communities after completing a prison and/or jail sentence.
- Encouragement of personal accountability and civic responsibility.
- Nurture an environment of mutual respect between citizens and law enforcement.
- Enhance the living experience in the Newburg and Shawnee communities.

Criteria for the Program

Must be a resident of Newburg or Shawnee neighborhoods returning to the community from prison or jail.
Eligible Zip Codes: 40218, 40219, 40211, 40212, 40213

Must meet eligibility criteria established by Project Team (Please see the attached application)

****Sex offenders and persons convicted of any crimes against children are excluded****

Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Pilot Project

Newburg/Shawnee

Application

The primary goal of the Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Pilot Project is to enhance community safety and reduce commitments to prison. Beginning upon acceptance into this program, JRI will assess, identify and link offenders with services specific to their needs in order to reduce the likelihood of additional criminal behaviors.

The JRI pilot project is a program for individuals returning to the Newburg and Shawnee communities. It offers a coordinated approach that requires regular face –to –face contact with program staff and participation at the Reinvestment Neighborhood Group (RING) meetings. In addition, it is expected that your family, friend, or significant other will be engaged in the process of assisting in successful reintegration.

Minimum eligibility criteria:

1. Returning to:
Newburg (zip codes 40213, 40218, & 40219)
Shawnee (zip codes 40211 & 40212)
2. No sex related convictions or crimes against children

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete the attached application form and return to case manager. The application will be forwarded to the JRI Project Team for review. If eligible for participation, the case manager will advise of acceptance into the program. Completing the application for JRI consideration should not be interpreted as acceptance into the program.

Any incomplete applications or applications that contain inaccurate information will not be considered. Factors considered for participation will include institutional adjustment and institutional program participation.

Please return completed applications to:

**Seven Counties Services, Inc
Tom Reiss, Principal Case Manager
Justice Reinvestment Pilot Project
Criminal Justice Team
758 South First Street
Louisville, KY 40202**

Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Pilot Project Application

Check the box below to indicate the community you will be returning to:

Newburg (includes zip codes 40213, 40218 & 40219)

Shawnee (includes zip codes 40211 & 40212)

Please print all responses. Answer all questions completely unless directed otherwise. Use “N/A” (not applicable) for all questions that do not apply to you.

Telephone Number: _____ or _____

Date Completed: _____ Projected Release Date: _____

Name
Last First Middle

Address (If currently incarcerated, name of institution)

City State Zip

Dorm or Unit: _____ ID Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Do you have a place to live upon your release? Yes No

Address you will return to:

Do you have a Social Security card? Yes No Do you have a valid Driver's License? Yes No

Do you have State ID card Yes No Do you have a Birth Certificate? Yes No

Current Charges (list all):

Ethnic Background (mark one)

Black Caucasian Asian Hispanic American Indian Other _____

Current Marital Status (mark one)

Married Divorced Separated Widowed Single (never married)

Number of children? Who has Custody of the Children:

Your current status: Incarcerated Served-Out Paroled On Probation

Military Experience: Have you ever served in a branch of the service? Yes No

What branch: _____ When: _____

Christy Thompson-Reentry Coordinator for District 18



My name is Christy Thompson; I have been with the Division of Probation and Parole since 2005. From 2006-2010, I supervised a regular felony caseload in District 17, located in the west end of Louisville.

When I was asked to consider taking on the task of a Parole Reentry Coordinator, I have to admit that I was very hesitant. One of the first questions I asked was, “Do I have to be more lenient as it relates to their violations?” I was quickly answered with, “No, sanctions are to be enforced just like any other parolee.”

I was placed in this position one year ago this month. I am very glad that I took advantage of this great opportunity to get on-board with reentry. Several, if not all, Probation and Parole Officers make the statement that our caseloads are too high to manage, much less help the offenders. With my low caseload numbers, I now have the time to help my parolees. Please do not misunderstand my point; yes, my caseload is now manageable but it still requires a lot of work.

I cannot explain how much they appreciate and respond to my willingness to simply slow down on a busy report day and listen to what is going on in their life at that moment; whether it be good or bad.

As a Reentry Coordinator, I do have a few added services available to me that allow me to assist my offenders. I am able to provide TARC tickets and pocket calendars for all their appointments. However, there are programs and contacts that are available to most parolees that I take full advantage of, such as PORTAL, Goodwill, and Kathy Vasquez with Veteran Affairs.

I was asked to share a success story from the past year, but I am unable to think of one that stands out because there are several.

Just to highlight a few successful people:

- *A parolee earned his Associates degree and earned another 90 days for completion of his degree; which allowed him to be released from supervision.*
- *A parolee who will gain his own housing soon through VA with the help of Mrs. Vasquez.*
- *A parolee who now has visitation rights with her son; something she has not had since he was born three years ago.*
- *Several parolees have gained employment with the help of Goodwill.*
- *An older male parolee who is going back to college to show his teenage children just how important education is, and how you can turn your life around regardless of the bad choices you make in your past.*

As a Reentry Officer, it's not the one big success story, but all the small ones that add up to measure true success. After all, isn't that what reentry is all about?

“Organizationally, we can do many things to enhance our reentry efforts such as providing the necessary training for our staff and implementing the most effective programs available for the offenders, but the most essential element to successful reentry is having the dedicated and motivated staff in place such as Christy Thompson....” said Tim Carman, Director of Probation & Parole.

- Have 9 months or less to minimum expiration of sentence.
- Participate in a pre-release planning process.
- No pending felony or misdemeanor charge, detainer warrant or other process issued by a jurisdiction.
- No active domestic violence order or emergency protective order.
- No more than 90 days restorable good time loss outstanding.
- Not be determined guilty of any Category VII disciplinary violation (this includes sexual assault on staff, non-inmate or inmate) within the last five years.
- Have an approved home placement in the state of Kentucky.
- Be classified as Level 1 or 2 custody (these are the two least restrictive custody levels in the Kentucky classification system).

HIP has 9 classification treatment officers (CTOs) that cover the local jail facilities for the state along with a CTO in each institution. Once a list has been compiled of offenders that may be eligible, the officers:

- Review the offenders to see if they qualify based on the guidelines set for HIP.
- The CTOs visit each offender and explain the program and verify whether they have a home placement in Kentucky available to submit.
- The CTO then contacts the home placement to verify information and that the placement is willing to provide a home for the offender.
- Once the home placement has been verified, the CTO submits the plan to Central Office HIP staff.
- Time is audited by Offender Information Services and submitted to the Program Administrator for final approval of the offender.
- Upon approval by the Program Administrator, the placement is submitted to Probation and Parole to investigate the home placement. Probation and Parole has 10 working days to approve or reject a plan.
- Once Probation and Parole submits the paperwork to Central Office staff the goal is to release the offender within 48 hours. If rejected, we submit the rejection back to the CTO to determine if there is another home placement available.

